

STOCKS		COMMODITIES		ASIAN MARKETS				CURRENCIES				
Week on week		As of Friday		Friday Closings				As on Thursday				
DSEX	CSCX	Gold	Oil	MUMBAI	TOKYO	SINGAPORE	SHANGHAI	USD	EUR	GBP	JPY	
5.87%	5.76%	\$1,558.80	\$64.98	41,599.72	23,850.57	3,255.95	3,092.29	83.95	92.51	109.42	0.75	
4,197.39	7,735.12	(per ounce)	(per barrel)					BUY TK	84.95	96.31	113.22	0.79
								SELL TK				

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Star BUSINESS

DHAKA SUNDAY JANUARY 12, 2020, POU5H 28, 1426 BS starbusiness@thedailystar.net

DSE MD's recruitment gamed, allege directors

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Kazi Sanaul Hoq's appointment as the managing director of the Dhaka Stock Exchange has run into a spot of controversy after a group of directors alleged that a director tried to game the process to get him elected.

The episode comes at a time when stock investors' confidence on the bourse is heading towards rock bottom.

The DSE board comprises 13 members: one MD, seven independent directors and five shareholder-directors.

A good number of directors shared with The Daily Star the behind-the-scenes manoeuvring to get Hoq, former MD of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, to the top post of the premier bourse.

The DSE has been on the lookout for an MD for the last six months after the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC) did not extend the tenure of KAM Majedur Rahman despite several requests from the premier bourse.

"One director attempted to rig the selection process to get his beloved person to the position," said a director requesting



anonymity to speak candidly on the matter. Normally, the nomination committee of the DSE makes a short list and sends the candidates' curricula vitae (CVs) to the board members for evaluation.

The selected candidates are then called for a panel interview with the board and best individual is chosen, he said.

This time, the short listed persons' CVs were not sent to the board, so they were not called for interview.

"This is a violation of the convention of MD selection process," said another director preferring anonymity.

The accused board member, rather the kingmaker, managed the situation by saying that "the upper level" wanted Hoq, former MD of the state-run Investment Corporation of Bangladesh, as the MD, so the board must go for him.

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45 differently abled get ICT jobs

Another 445 shortlisted in fair

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Some 45 differently abled persons got recruited on the spot yesterday following interviews at the sixth edition of a unique annual fair that aims to give such people a shot at financial independence by showcasing their ICT talent.

Another 445 were shortlisted, a good number of whom will gradually get employed, said Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC), the fair's organiser.

Around 500 registered to attend the event at NGO Affairs Bureau but some 600 turned up, they added.

There were some 37 stalls of ICT companies and non-government organisations, many exhibiting software and hardware differently abled people had developed.

Among the entities were the Bangladesh Association of Call Centre and Outsourcing, the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Cyber Cafe Owners Association of Bangladesh.

About 120 curricula vitae (CVs) were collected by the business process outsourcing company Genex Infosys, which will start interviewing the candidates from today.

Its co-founder and chief executive officer, Prince Mojumder, said they would hire a good number of people.

"As we are running call centres, differently abled people can do that job. That's why we have been giving priority to such people since 2013," he said.

The many skills that people with disabilities can have took Mike Kazi, founder and CEO of Kazi IT and a first-time attendee, by surprise.

Kazi IT got a huge number of CVs and already shortlisted some of them and took their

interviews.

"We found qualities that can add value to our company," he said, adding that their participation at the fair and the employment offers were a part of their corporate social responsibility.

The fair generated jobs for 32 people in its first year, then 60, 115, 176 and 56 in the following years. Inaugurating the daylong event in the morning, Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT, said ICT could be the main tool in removing disparity from society.

"2020 will be a great year for the differently abled people from our side as we are organising skill development trainings for them and will develop different products for them like specialised job portal."

The ICT division is trying to bring differently abled people into the mainstream workforce, he added.

NM Zeaul Alam, secretary to ICT Division; KM Abdus Salam, NGO Affairs Bureau director general; and Parthapratim Deb, BCC executive director, also spoke.



Zunaid Ahmed Palak, state minister for ICT, meets differently abled persons at a daylong dedicated ICT job fair for them at NGO Affairs Bureau in the capital yesterday.

COLLECTED

Solar panel installation rising sans proper disposal policy

SOHEL PARVEZ

Bangladesh is set to see a rising volume of waste from solar photo-voltaic panels in the coming years, which in the absence of proper disposal and management pose risks to the environment and humans.

By 2041, the country will produce more than 0.748 million tonnes of solar e-waste and by 2061 0.797 million tonnes, according to a paper of the electrical and electronic engineering department of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET).

"Thus, it is critical to handle the disposal of PV waste that is generated at the end of life of PV solar modules," it said.

The challenge becomes apparent as the lifetime of a portion of solar panels will end within the next couple of years, and the government is yet to frame any policy or rule to ensure proper management and disposal of the panels.

"It is a matter of concern and we should take steps in advance to ensure proper management of solar panels before they become obsolete," said Md Ziaur Rahman Khan, a professor of EEE at the BUET and co-author of the paper.

Bangladesh started installing Solar Home Systems (SHS) two decades ago with the objective of lightening homes in off-grid areas by harnessing renewable sources for electricity. Since then, the coverage of SHS has expanded.

SHSs are now providing lights to about 60 lakh homes and until now



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There is no government guideline on disposing solar photo-voltaic panels.

panels with capacity to produce 370 megawatt of electricity have been installed, according to the Sustainable & Renewable Energy Development Authority (Sreda).

Solar panels are used to run irrigation pumps, establish mini-electricity grid and solar power plants.

They are also installed on rooftops of building and factories and the government is exploring the scope to establish floating solar power plants on water bodies.

Since power generation by using solar panels is increasing, so will the

volume of obsolete PV panels, said a paper titled "End-of-Life Management of Photovoltaic Modules in Bangladesh."

"Growing PV panel waste presents a new environmental challenge but also unprecedented opportunities to pursue new economic avenues," said the paper, which was authored by a group of students and faculties of the EEE department at the BUET.

The paper, co-authored by Khan, Kimia Tasnia, Shajinaj Begum and Zarin Tasnim, was published last year.

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Bangladesh must comply with ILO standards for GSP Plus

EU ambassador says

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The European Union wants a guarantee from Bangladesh that its factories would ensure fair practice and comply with the International Labour Organisation standards if the country wants to enjoy continued trade privilege from the bloc following graduation to the developing country bracket.

"We have to make sure that all these [goods] are ILO-compliant and of course, compliant with our own standards," said Rensje Teerink, the EU ambassador to Bangladesh, at a discussion on "EU and the contemporary global scenario: a reflection for the future" at the Six Seasons Hotel in Dhaka.

Bangladesh is set to lose its current trade privilege of zero-duty export benefit under the EU's Everything but Arms (EBA) scheme when the country makes the transition in 2024.

As the EU will give three years to Bangladesh as a grace period to ensure a smooth transition, the country will finally lose the Generalised Scheme of Preferences (GSP) in 2027.

Once the country loses the preferential treatment, Bangladesh will have to face nearly 12.50 percent duty on exports to the EU as a developing country.

But Bangladesh can continue to export duty-free if it can manage EU's GSP Plus status by meeting some conditions such as core conventions of the United Nations, including practising good governance, following international standards on labour

rights and human rights and ensuring protection of environment.

"The goods need to be produced following the sustainability of environment, labour rights and human rights," Teerink said.

The EU is evaluating the practices

are Armenia, Bolivia, Cape Verde, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka, according to the EU website. The Rana Plaza tragedy back in 2013 opened the eyes of the European consumers and called for some correction plans, which must be done, Teerink said.

"This is why the Accord, the Alliance and the Sustainability Compact were created."

So far, Bangladesh has put in place a number of commendable changes on workplace safety in the garment sector.

"Despite the commendable changes, more progress is needed in the sector," Teerink added.

The EU is working on the EBA scheme, which offers duty-free trade privilege to 45 least-developed countries, including Bangladesh.

"The EBA has really helped Bangladesh from the very beginning of the scheme. It is a major instrument that really helped Bangladesh more than the bilateral aid."

Among the LDCs, Bangladesh is the highest beneficiary of the EU's trade privilege, particularly because of higher garment export to the bloc.

In 2018, Bangladesh exported \$19.32 billion worth of garment items to the EU, up 11.17 percent year-on-year, making it the second largest apparel exporter to the bloc.

"There is no other organisation like the EU that can help Bangladesh in such a big way," she said, adding that that does not come without strings attached.

Currently, eight countries enjoy the GSP Plus benefit. The countries

Mission: EU's GSP+

- Bangladesh will graduate from LDC in 2024
- EU to give 3 years' grace period for preparation
- Bangladesh utilises EBA facility the most out of 45 LDCs
- Bangladesh's GSP+ status being evaluated
- If GSP+ not given exports will face 12.50pc duty
- \$19.32 billion of garment shipments to EU in 2018
- Second biggest apparel supplier to EU

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SMALL VENDORS MAKING THE BEST OF WINTER



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The cold surely gives a boost in sales at corner tea stalls providing Bangladeshis a bonus excuse at having steaming cups of their caffeine fix. And no winter apparently feels complete without a quick bite of pithas or cakes, a cultural delicacy made of newly harvested rice, flour, coconut etc, offered by roadside vendors. The photos were taken in Farmgate yesterday.